

THE
PETITION

Of both Houses of Parliament.

Presented to his Majesty at York,

the 23. of May 1642.

Concerning the disbanding of His Guard

VVith the three Votes of both

Houses of the 20.

And His Majesties Answer

thereunto.

Printed first at York, and now reprinted at

LONDON, by A. N. for Edward Hushands

at his House in Bel-yard neere Temple.

Barr 1642.

TO THE KINGS MOST Excelent MAJESTIE.

*The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons assembled
in PARLIAMENT.*



Our Majesties loyall Subjects, the Lords and Cōmons in this Parliament, do humbly represent unto your Majestie, That notwithstanding Your frequent Professions to Your Parliament, and the Kingdom, and the late expression in Your Answer of the thirteenth of May, to the Petition of the Countrey of *York*, That Your desire and intention is only the preserving of the true Protestant Profession, the Laws of the Land, the liberty of Your people, and the peace of the Kingdom; Neverthelesse, with great greif, we perceive by your Speech of the twelfth of May, and the paper Printed in Your Majesties Name, in the form of a Proclamation, bearing date the fourteenth of May, and other Evidences, that under colour of raising a guard to secure Your Person, of which Guard (considering the fidelity & care of Your Parliament) there can be no use: Your Majestie doth command Troops, both of Horse and Foot to assemble at *York*, the very beginnings whereof were apprehended by the Inhabitants of that Countrey to be an affrightment, and disturbance of Your Majesties liege people, as appears by their Petition presented to Your Majestie: The continuing and increase of which Forces is to Your Parliament, and must needs be a just cause of great jealousie and danger to Your whole Kingdom.

Therefore we do humbly beseech your Majestie, to disband all such Forces, as by your Command are assembled;

And

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And relying for your Security (as your Predecessors have done) upon the Laws, and the affections of your People, you will be pleased to desist from any further designs of this nature; contenting your Selfe with your usuall and ordinary Guards: Otherwise we shall hold our selves bound in duty towards God, and the trust reposed in us by the People, and the fundamentall Laws and Constitutions of this Kingdom, to imploy our care, and utmost Power to secure the Parliament, and to preserve the peace and quiet of the Kingdom.



Die Veneris

20. Maii, 1642.

Resolved upon the Question. I.

That it appeares, that the King (seduced by wicked Counsell) intends to make war against the Parliament, who in all their consultations and action have proposed no other end unto themselves but the care of His Kingdomes, and the performanc of all duty and loyalty to His Person.

Resolved &c. II.

That whensoever the King maketh war upon the Parliament, it is a breach of the trust reposed in him by his people contrary to his Oath, and tending to the dissolution of this Government.

Resolved, &c. III.

That whosoever shall serve or assist Him in such wars, are Traitors, by the fundamentall Laws of this Kingdom, and have been so adjudged by two Acts of Parliament, and ought to suffer as Traitors.

John Brown Cl. Parl.

Harvey

11 May 42

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HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the aforesaid Petition, concerning the disbanding of His Guard.

Presented to His Majestie, at YORK, the 23. of
May MCDXLI.



We can not but extreemly wounder, that the causelesse Iealousies concerning vs, raised & fomented by a malignant Partle in this Kingdom, which desires nothing more then, to snatch themselves particular advantages out of a generall combustion (which meanes of advantage shall never bee ministred to them by Our fault, or seeking) should not onely be able to seduce a weak party in this our Kingdom, but seem to finde so much countenance even from both Houses, as that Our raising of a Guard (without further designe, then for the safety of Our Person; An Action so Legall in manner, so peaceable, upon causes so euiden and necessary) should not onely be looked upon, and petitioned against by them, as a causelesse Iealousie, but declared to be the raising of a War against them, contrary to Our former Professions of Our Care of Religion and Law. And we no lesse wounder, that this Action of ours should be said (in a very large expression) to be apprehended by the inhabitants of this Countrey as an affrightment and disturbance to Our People; having been as well received here, as it is every where to be iustified; and (We speak now of the generall, not of a few seduced particulars) assisted and sped by this Countrey

Country, with that loyal affection and alacrity, is the
most excellent example set to the rest of the Kingdom,
of care of Our safety upon all occasions, and shall never be
forgotten by Us, nor Vice-hoped by Our Posterity, but
shall be ever payed to them in that which is the proper ex-
pression of a Princes Gratitude, A perpetuall vigilant care
to governe them justly, and to perserve the onely Rule by
which they can be governed, The Law of the Land. And
Wee are confident, That if you were yourselves eye-
witnesses, you would see to the contrary, as to give little
present thanks, & hereafter little credit to your Informers:
And if you have no better intelligence of the Inclinations
and Affections of the rest of the Kingdom, certainly the
minds of Our People (which to some ends and purposes
you represent) are but ill represented unto you.

Have you so many moneths together not contented
your selves to rely for security (as your Predecessours have
done) upon the Affection of the People, but by your owne
single Authoritie raised to your selves a Guard, (and that
sometimes of no ordinary numbers, and in no ordinary way)
And could not all those Pikes and Protestations, that Army
on one side, and that Navie on the other, perswade Us to
command you to disband your forces, and to content your
selves with your ordinary (that is, with no) Guard, or work
Us in an opinion, that you appeared to leavie War against
Us, or had any further designe: And is it possible that the
same Persons should be so apt to suspect & condemn Us,
who have been so unapt in the same matter, (upon much
more ground) to taxe or suspect them? This is Our case,
notwithstanding the care and fidelity of Our Parliament,
Our Fort is kept by armed men, against Us, Our proper
Goods, first detained from Us, and then, contrary to Our
Command, by strong hand, offered to be carried away (in
which at once all Our Property, as a private Person, all Our

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Authority as a King, are wrestled from Us: And yet for Us to secure Our selves in a Legall way (that Sir John Hotham may not by the same Forces or by more raised, by pretence of the same Authoritie (for they say he raiseth daily some, and know it no new thing for him to pretend Orders that he cannot shew) continue the War that he hath leaved against Us, and as well imprison Our Person, as detain Our Goods; and as well shut Us up in *Worke*, as shut Us out of *Null*) is said to be esteemed a cause of great jealousie to the Parliament; a raising War against them; and of danger to the whole Kingdome. While these Injustices and Indignities offered to Us are countenanced by them who ought to be most forward in Our vindication and their punishment; in observation of their Oaths, and of the trust reposed in them by the People, and to avoid the dissolution of the present Government: Upon which Case the whole World is to judge, whether We had not reason, not wholly to rely upon the care and fidelity of Our Parliament (being so strangely blinded by malignant spirits, as not to perceive Our injuries) but to take some care of Our own Person, and in Order to that, to make use of that Authority which the Laws declare to be in Us: And whether this Petition, with such a threatening Conclusion, accompanied with more threatening Votes, gives Us not cause rather to increase then diminish Our Guard; especially since Wee saw, before the Petition, a printed paper, dated the 17 of *May*, under written *Hon. Elsing. Cler. Dom. Com.* commanding (in the name of both Lords and Commons) the Sheriffs of all Our Counties: to raise the Power of all those Our Counties, to suppress such of Our Subjects, as by any of Our Commands shall be drawn together, and put as that paper calls it) in a posture of War, charging Our Officers and Subjects to assist them in the performance thereof, at their perils: For though Wee cannot suspect, that this paper (or any bare Votes,

(69)
Vot, not grounded upon Law or Reason, or quotation of
repealed Statutes) should have any influence upon Our
good People, who know their duties too well, nor to know
That to take up Armes against those, who upon a legall
Command (that is, Ours) come together to a most legall
end (that is, Our Security and Preservation) were to leavy
warre against us, and who appeare in this County (and wee
are confident they are so thorowout the Kingdom) not lesse
satisfied with the legality, convenience, and necessity of
these our Guards, and not lesse sensible of the indignities and
dangers (which makes it necessary) then we are ourselves:
Yet if this Paper be really the Act of both Houses, Wee
cannot looke upon it, but as the highest of Scornes and indig-
nities; first, to issue Commands of Force against us, and af-
ter those have appeared uselesse, to offer, by Petition, to
perswade us to that which that Force should have effected.

We conclude this Answer to your Petition, with our Coun-
sell to you, That you joyn with Vs in exacting satisfaction
for that unparallel'd, and yet unpunished Action of Sir *John*
Hothams; And that you command Our Fort and Goods to
be returned to Our own hands; That you lay downe all pre-
tences (under pretence of necessity, or declaring that is law to
make Lawes without Vs, and (by consequence) put a Cypher
of Vs; That you declare effectually against Tumults, and call
in such Pamphlets, (punishing the Authors and publishers of
them) as seditiously endeavour to dis-able Vs from protecting
Our People, by weakning by false Aspersions, and new false
Doctrines) Our Authority with them, and their confidence
in Vs. The particulars of which Tumults, and Pamphlets
we would long since have taken care, that our learned Coun-
cell should have been enabled to give in evidence, if, upon
Our former offer, We had received any return of incourage-

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...from you in it And if you do this, you then (and hard-
ly I think) will persuade the world, that you have discharg-
ed your duty to God, the trust reposed in you by the Peo-
ple, and the fundamentall Lawes and Constitutions of the
Kingdome; and employed your care and utmost power to co-
quer the Parliament; for we are still a part of the Parliament,
and so the title of this wel-founded Monarchy, bee turned to a
Democracie; and to preserve the peace and quiet of the
Kingdome. Which together with the defence of the Pro-
testant religion, the Liberties of the Lands, and Our owne just
Privilege (as a part of) and a defence to those Lawes, by
which we have been maintained, which, in Our Consul-
tations and Actions, we proposed to our-
selves, first, to the Committee, and after to the House, and at
last to the whole House, to order by Petition, or
otherwise, as to that which the House should have considered.
We conclude this Answer to your Petition with our Coun-
sell to you, That you joyne with Vs in exacting satisfaction
for that unparallel'd, and unparallel'd Action of Sir John
Wilmot; And that you command Our Force and Goods to
be returned to Our owne hands; That you lay downe all pre-
tences of privilege, or of any other kind, that is law-
fully made, without Vs, and by our consent, and call
of Vs; That you declare effectually against Tumults, and call
in each Pamphlet, punishing the Authors and publishers of
them, as seditionally endeavouring to divide Vs from protecting
Our People by weakening by false Assertions, and new false
Doctrines Our Authority with them; and their confidence
in Vs. The particulars of which Tumults, and Pamphlets
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